

1991

Exceptional Human Experience

Vol. 9, No. 1 June 1991

spite of major tributes in the *Journal of Parapsychology* and *Journal of the American Society for Psychical Research*. Rodger Anderson's entry is reasonably up to date. My own entry had been updated in a skewed manner. None of my articles in the *Journal of Religion and Psychical Research* and *Christian Parapsychologist* are mentioned. It is not noted that I have edited the *Journal of the American Society for Psychical Research* since 1983. I am listed as managing editor of a publication I never heard of. Only the first of 5 bibliographies I have published in *Advances in Parapsychological Research* is mentioned. No mention is made that I was president of the Parapsychological Association in 1984 nor of a major paper in the 1985 Parapsychology Foundation conference proceedings. And the title given for the book I wrote with Michael Murphy is the working title, not the one under which it was published in 1978. Carlos Alvarado is not even included. If these examples are any indication, these volumes still have far to go. Systematic checking of the major parapsychology journals and conference proceedings would bring new names to light and provide excellent sources for updating these volumes. I hope there will be a 4th edition, and that these suggestions will be followed. - R.A.W.

GEOGRAPHIC ASPECTS

04405. Irwin, Harvey. Parapsychology in Australia. *A.I.P.R. Bulletin*, 1988 (Jan), No. 11, 1-8. 1 illus; 46 refs.

Parapsychology in Australia falls into three eras. During the *spiritualistic phase* (1860-1920), the emphasis was on investigating spirit communication through mediums (mainly direct voice and materialized apports). During the *early experimental phase* (1920-1960), the experimental approach of J.B. Rhine had little impact in Australia, except for a few individuals. The *contemporary era* (from about 1960) is marked by the rise of scientifically based psychic research societies, university courses in parapsychology, and by systematic scientific research, despite tough opposition. Australian research has been hampered by a number of factors. Firstly, our geography meant that individual investigators have been isolated from each other and from their overseas colleagues. Secondly, until recently, most Australian psychic research (and psychological research in general) was conservative in that it copied that done overseas. An innovative style relevant to Australia was lacking. - DA

04406. Keil, Jürgen. Parapsychology in the Soviet Union. *Zeitschrift für Parapsychologie und Grenzgebiete der Psychologie*, 1984, 26(1-4), 191-210. 3 figs; 42 refs

The author summarizes his numerous travels to the Soviet Union both with regard to general observations of daily life (the role of bureaucracy, etc.) and an evaluation of parapsychological research in that country. It is evident that, on a popular level, Soviet citizens show a distinct interest in paranormal phenomena. However, "official" support for parapsychological research seems to depend on the practical applicability of its results. The author also discusses "Kirlian photography," exaggerated accounts of which frequently have filled the pages of the popular press in the West.

In the concluding section, he discusses work with Nina Kulagina; on the basis of the experimental data from investigations by both Soviet and Western scientists (including the author's own observations), he reviews the arguments that have been advanced for and against the genuineness of the phenomena produced by Kulagina. He concludes that the paranormal abilities of this physical medium may well stand up to skeptical scrutiny. - DA/G.H.

HISTORICAL ASPECTS

04407. Le Maléfan, Pascal. Beginning of parapsychological concept by Max Dessoir (physician-philosopher, 1867-1947). *Revue Francaise de Psychotronique*, 1988 (Jul-Sep), 1(2), 5-14.

This is one of the fullest treatments of Max Dessoir's introduction of the term *Parapsychology* in an article in the *Sphinx* for July 1899. The relevant portions of the text of the article is given in French. This is followed by a biographical sketch of Dessoir, who was a German physician (1867-1947). The next three pages are devoted to a description of the context of the publication of Dessoir's article. The piece closes with the author's commentary on Dessoir's introduction of the term, *parapsychology*, which was done in order to differentiate the study of psychic phenomena from that of the abnormal psychology of Lombroso and others. - R.A.W.

METHODOLOGY

04408. Beloff, John. The Rhine legacy. *Philosophical Psychology*, 1989, 2(2), 231-239. 22 refs

An attempt is made to examine the main principles that underlie the "Rhinean" school of parapsychology. Five such principles are discussed: (1) that psi can best be assessed using quantitative measures and forced-choice tests; (2) that psi is a function of the unconscious with the implication that objective performance alone is important, not the state of mind of the subject; (3) that psi ability is, to some degree, present in everyone; (4) that only those problems deserve attention for which an unambiguous answer is attainable, with the implication that survival research should be shelved indefinitely; and (5) that psi is nonphysical. These five principles are then reviewed from our present vantage point and all are found to require qualification to a greater or lesser extent. Some critics, however, want to go further and allege that Rhine led psychical research into a blind alley and that the time has come to revert to the earlier investigative tradition. This, we contend, is defeatist, the more especially since the advent of computers has greatly extended the scope and power of the experimental approach. Despite its inherent difficulties, it remains the indispensable mainstay of our continuing efforts to make sense of the paranormal. - DA

04409. Sornette, Didier, Lagier, Michel, and Sornette, Thierry. Parapsychology: Point of view by physicists. *Revue Francaise de Psychotronique*, 1988 (Oct-Dec), 1(3), 3-9. 7 refs

We examine the role of physics in parapsychology, stress the importance of defining simple and